

**β-CYCLODEXTRIN COMPOSITIONS, AND USE TO PREVENT  
TRANSMISSION OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES**

**ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

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Methods of reducing the risk of transmission of a sexually transmitted pathogen by contacting the pathogen or cells susceptible to infection by the pathogen with a β-cyclodextrin are provided. Methods for reducing the risk of transmission of a sexually transmitted pathogen to or from a subject by contacting the pathogen or 10 cells susceptible to the pathogen in the subject with a pharmaceutical composition containing a β-cyclodextrin also are provided. Accordingly, pharmaceutical compositions, which include 1) a β-cyclodextrin, which is in an amount that blocks passage of the pathogen through lipid rafts in the membrane of a cell susceptible to the pathogen, and 2) a contraceptive, an agent for treating a sexually transmitted 15 disease, a lubricant, or a combination thereof, are provided, as are composition formulated from a solid substrate that contains an amount of β-cyclodextrin useful for reducing the risk of transmission of a sexually transmitted pathogen.